

Attachment 9 consists of the following items:

- ✓ **Program Preferences.** Attachment 9 contains detailed information on how the proposal will meet the program preferences described in the IRWM Guidelines.

Program Preferences Met by Proposal

The *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* Reach 1A Phase 2 and Reach 1B meets six out of eight Program Preferences identified in the Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E IRWM Guidelines. This attachment details the specific Program Preferences that are met by the Project, the certainty that the Proposal will meet the Program Preferences and the breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preferences will be met. Table 9-1, below identifies the Program Preferences met by the project and Table 9-2 identifies the Statewide Priorities addressed by the project.

Description of the How Reaches 1A Phase 2 and Reach 1B Projects Meet the Program Preferences

(1) Includes Regional Projects and Programs

The projects benefit the Mission Creek Watershed in the south coast sub-region. The Mission Creek watershed has its headwaters in the Los Padres National Forest and covers approximately 7,400 acres. Mission Creek extends 7.5 miles from the mountains, winding through the downtown Santa Barbara area to the beach just east of Stern's Wharf. The upper portion of the watershed has relatively undisturbed aquatic habitat and riparian corridors that support a diversity of plants and animals. There are also relatively dense oak woodlands that provide good wildlife habitats. In the lower portion of the watershed where the projects are being proposed, the majority of the creek is lined with rock and/or concrete and there is little native vegetation or wildlife habitat. In combination, the projects will provide 10,000sq. ft. of (creek feet) of fish habitat for endangered anadromous steelhead trout and endangered tidewater goby. The projects in concert provide 4,000 sq. ft. of riparian habitat and extended habitat restoration zones along the identified Reaches, which will provide for increased water quality and passive open space zones for residents and tourists.

Table 9-1: Program Preferences Met by Proposal

Project	Program Preferences							
	(1) Includes Regional Projects or Programs	(2) Integrates Projects within a Hydrologic Region	(3) Resolves Significant Water-Related Conflicts Within Region	(4) Contribute to Attainment of one or more CALFED objectives	(5) Addresses Critical Water Supply or Quality Needs of DAC	(6) Integrates Water Management with Land Use Planning	(7) Eligible for SWFM funding	(8) Addresses Statewide Priorities
<i>Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project Reach 1A Phase 2 and Reach 1B</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

Table 9-2: Address Statewide Priorities

Project	Assist in Meeting Statewide Priorities							
	Drought Preparedness	Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently	Climate Change Response Actions	Expand Environmental Stewardship	Practice Integrated Flood Management	Protect Surface Water Quality and Groundwater Quality	Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources	Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits
<i>Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project Reach1A Phase 2 and Reach 1B</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		

Lower Mission Creek has the poorest water quality of all of the City of Santa Barbara's urban creeks. The existing lack of natural stream bottom, wetlands and riparian buffers, eliminates the potential for pollutants to be naturally filtered. Hence, with the widening of the natural creek bottom, the natural water filtration will increase and water quality.

The Mission Creek drainage area, which drains into the Pacific Ocean is the largest of all the coastal streams in the Santa Barbara area. This area affects a great swath of beach and the ocean, hence improvement of water quality is a regional benefit.

Restoration of historic aquatic habitat for steelhead and tidewater goby has a regional benefit in that Mission Creek is considered the most viable stream for steelhead trout restoration within the City of Santa Barbara. Mission Creek has an existing population of rainbow trout, contains high quality spawning and rearing habitat within the stream channels in the mid and upper watershed, and has a documented historic run of steelhead trout.

(2) Integrates Projects Within an Identified Region

These projects integrate with other South Coast Watershed and Goleta Slough Watershed anadromous fish restoration project, including the San Jose Creek Flood Control Improvement Project, and the Old Mission Creek Storm Water and Restoration Project.

These projects also integrate with the San Jose Creek Union Pacific Railroad Bridge Replacement Project and the Las Vegas Creek Union Pacific Railroad Bridge Replacement Project within the San Pedro Creek and Las Vegas Creeks Watersheds.

(3) Resolves Significant Water-Related Conflicts Within a Hydraulic Region

Over the past 100 years, the Lower Mission Creek has flooded no less than 20 times and caused serious damage. Given the grave threat that Lower Mission Creek poses to a highly urbanized and densely populated area, combined with the devastating flood damage that has been experienced, the City of Santa Barbara, the SBCFCWCD, and the USACE have spent 20 years developing reconnaissance studies, feasibility studies planning efforts, public outreach and an EIS/EIR to contemplate and best address the flood control measures and restoration measure that best benefit the Lower Mission Creek.

The battle to reestablish the federally threatened species, the Central California Coast Steelhead and the Tidewater Goby has been ardently fought for decades. These projects rehabilitate important habitat required to reestablish the species in the region and moves to resolve this long-standing conflict between the natural environment and the built environment.

Lower Mission Creek has the poorest water quality of all of the City of Santa Barbara's urban creeks. The existing lack of natural stream bottom, wetlands and riparian buffers, eliminates the potential for pollutants to be naturally filtered. With the widening of the natural creek

bottom, combined with the restoration of 4,000 sq. ft. of riparian habitat and habitat extension zones, the natural water filtration will increase and water quality.

(6) Effectively Integrates Water Management with Land Use Planning

The impact of severe flooding on land uses (residential, commercial, and transportation) has brought land use planners from the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara and USACE together to craft this integrated land, water, and environmental project.

The project permitting process (CEQA and NEPA) has worked to integrate water and natural resource management with land use planning.

(7) Eligible for Stormwater Flood Management (SWFM) Funding

The project is eligible for SWFM funding because:

- The project is not part of the State Plan Flood Control (SPFC);
- The project is designed to manage stormwater runoff to reduce flood damage;
- The project yields multiple benefits including ecosystem benefits and flood control benefits, and
- The project is consistent with the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Plan to manage stormwater runoff to reduce flood damages.

(8) Addresses Statewide Priorities

The Project addresses Statewide Priorities as detailed in Table 9-2 below.

The project addresses seven Statewide Priorities:

- *Climate Change Response Actions* – by identifying and mitigating the expected increase in extreme weather events including the increased number of flood events and increases severity of each flooding event. This project demonstrates proper management of flood waters within the watershed through use of an adaptation strategy that will positively impact the health of the ecosystem and mitigate the negative impact of flooding.
- *Expands Environmental Stewardship* – by reestablishing fish habitat and opening up the opportunity for fish passage by expanding the natural streambed and replacing a concrete grade control structure that blocks fish passage with a fish transition structure, approximately



10,000 feet of fish habitat for anadromous steelhead trout is created.

- *Practices Integrated Flood Management* – by providing improved flood protection and habitat restoration; thereby, enhancing the floodplain ecosystem.
- *Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality* – protects surface water by filtering urban runoff and stormwater through an expanded natural soft-surfaced creek bed and by restoring 4,000 square feet of riparian habitat and habitat extension zones which will provide shade to the channel and filtration of water prior to creek entry.

Certainty that the Proposal will meet Program Preferences

The *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* has undergone extreme scrutiny during the IRWMP stakeholder process and, therefore, there is great certainty the project will meet the Program Preferences. Stakeholders who evaluated the *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* included engineers, scientists, and planners. After this evaluation, the project was ranked in the top 40 out of over 200 projects in the IRWM Plan. Two subsequent bi-annual reviews of all regional projects by the regional have continued to place the project in the top tier of regional projects.

The project meets criteria designed to address Proposition 1E requirements and achieves multiple IRWM Plan objectives. The project has the ability to achieve its required benefits, is technically feasible, has secured more than 50% of matching funds, and is implementable within a reasonable length of time after the grant award date.

The existing data, studies, and permits issued demonstrate the project is technically sound and likely to be implemented. The studies bring the design of Reach 1B to 60% complete and Reach 1A Phase 2 is 100% complete in design. Most permits required for the project are completed showing that there are multiple agencies that agree that the project will meet Program Preferences. The existing data, studies, and permits are listed below in Table 9-3.

Table 9-3: Existing Data, Studies, and Permits

Project	Existing Data, Studies, and Permits
<p><i>Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project Reach 1A Phase2 and Reach 1B</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USACE Improvement Plan for Lower Mission Creek, 1960’s; • 1986 USACE Feasibility Study, “The Lower Mission Creek Project”; • USACE Initial Reconnaissance Study Report, November 1995; • USACE Feasibility Phase Study. September, 2000. • USACE EIR/EIR, 2000 • 100% Design Plans for Reach 1A, Phase 2 and 60% Design Plans for Reach 1B • ACOE Section 404 Nationwide Permit • California Fish and Wildlife 1600 Streambed Alternation Permit • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion • California Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permit • California Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Quality Certification • NOAA Biological Opinion

The *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* will utilize the highest of technical standards and employ the most experienced construction team and by complying with the rigorous State and Federal regulatory permit system.

Table 9-4: Technical Standards

Project	Technical Standards
<p><i>Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project Reach 1A Phase2 and Reach 1B</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Design Standards include the latest editions of the California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications and Standard Plans, American Public Works Association standard Specifications for Public Works Construction • Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Technical Manuals

Breadth and Magnitude that Project will meet Program Preferences

The breadth and magnitude to which the *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* will meet Program Preferences can be gauged by how the project meets the IRWM Plan objectives, as described in detail in Attachment 3. The *Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project* Reach 1A Phase 2 and Reach 1B are consistent with five of the IRWM Plan objectives. The objectives are listed in Table 9-5 below.

Table 9-5: Project Meets IRWM Plan Objectives

IRWM Plan Objective	Project Objectives			
	Objective 1: Replace Bridge	Objective 2: Increase Conveyance Capacity	Objective 3: Protect habitat and ecosystems	Objective 4: Protect water quality
 Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats			✓	
 Implement flood control measures	✓	✓		
Improve emergency preparedness		✓		
 Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability.	✓	✓		
 Improve the quality of urban runoff, storm water, and wastewater			✓	✓

Table 9-6 provides both quantitative and qualitative data on the breadth and magnitude to which the project will meet the IRWM Plan objectives.

Table 9-6: Breadth and Magnitude to Which Objectives are Achieved

IRWM Plan Objective	Data on the Breadth and Magnitude to Which Project Meets IRWM Plan Objectives
 <p>Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects habitat from destruction of flooding by reducing flood risk to 20-year storm event from a 5-year storm event • Protects 5,900 acres of riparian habitat from flood damage • Creates approximately 14,000 creek feet of fish habitat for endangered anadromous Steelhead and endangered Tidewater Goby • Removes hundreds of sq. ft. on concrete and rock from the creek bottom and restores with natural creek bottom
 <p>Implement flood control measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces flood risk to 20-year storm event from a 5-year storm event • Reduces damage to property by \$9.4 million per year
<p>Improve emergency preparedness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project increases the flood protection for residents and commercial properties in the vicinity of the creek
 <p>Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaces flood control infrastructure including channel walls, creek bottom, fish transition structures and riparian habitat
 <p>Improve the quality of urban runoff, storm water, and wastewater</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects creek water quality by filtering urban runoff and stormwater through a restored natural soft-surfaced creek • Restores 5,900 sq. ft. of riparian habitat and riparian extension zones.